

they worked day and night to search for people in the rubble. In the end, 346 firefighters and emergency personnel lost their lives.

The heroism and bravery shown by the firefighters and rescue workers in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks led Connor Gehrarty, the son of a New York City firefighter who perished in the rescue efforts after September 11th, to circulate via e-mail the idea of establishing a day to honor firefighters.

Connor has noted that there is substantial remembrance of events such as the Oklahoma City bombing and 9-11. Connor emphasizes that firefighters deserve their own distinct day to be honored for the full panoply of their service. I agree.

Connor has worked diligently for five years to try to accomplish his goal. My office was able to get in touch with him using Facebook, a networking website, and inform him of the plans to make his idea a reality with this resolution. He is very supportive of this legislation.

The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association was also helpful with suggestions in the drafting of this legislation. The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association (OSFA) has 14,000 members consisting of paid (union and non-union), volunteer, and retired firefighters. In addition to providing support, services, and events for firefighters in Oklahoma, the OSFA oversees the Oklahoma Firefighters Museum and the Oklahoma Fallen and Living Firefighters Memorial. I am pleased with the dedication of this organization and the positive role it plays in the lives of Oklahoma's firefighters. I appreciate their suggestions and support of this resolution.

The OSFA is one of many organizations of firefighters in Oklahoma and around the country that impress me. Just last week, a group of fire marshals came all the way up from Oklahoma to visit my DC office. That visit spurred me to move forward with this resolution.

I pledge to ensure that as we celebrate the first annual National Firefighter Appreciation Day and many more in years to come, the hard-working and courageous individuals that make up groups such as these will be honored in a distinct way that is long overdue.

In light of the heroism and inspirational example of firefighters, please join me in naming the second Tuesday of October National Firefighter Appreciation Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, 2006, AND ENDING ON OCTOBER 14, 2006, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA WEEK”, IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC MEDIA OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BINGA-

MAN, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 597

Whereas, for almost 470 years, the United States has benefitted from the work of Hispanic writers and publishers;

Whereas more than 600 Hispanic publishers circulate more than 20,000,000 copies of publications every week in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of every 8 citizens of the United States is served by a Hispanic publisher;

Whereas the Hispanic press informs many citizens of the United States about the great political, economic, and social issues of the day;

Whereas the Hispanic press of the United States particularly focuses on informing and promoting the well-being of the Hispanic community of the United States; and

Whereas, by commemorating the achievements of the Hispanic press, the Senate acknowledges the important role that the Hispanic press has played in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on October 8, 2006, and ending on October 14, 2006, as “National Hispanic Media Week”, in honor of the Hispanic Media of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit an important resolution designating October 8 through the 14 as National Hispanic Media Week. I am joined by Senators BINGAMAN, SALAZAR, MARTINEZ, and NELSON of Florida in the introduction of this resolution.

This is the second year in which the Senate has designated a week to honor the Hispanic media of America. An institution that can trace its origins to almost four hundred years ago, America's Hispanic journalists and publishers have worked tirelessly to promote the free and deliberative exchange of ideas. The Hispanic media has played an important role in protecting cherished freedoms and rights. They have also worked to preserve our freedom of speech and have encouraged the growth of civic engagement in our nation's Hispanic community.

Since its early days, the Hispanic media has grown to serve a population exceeding 20 million people. In my home State of New Mexico, approximately 42 percent of the population is Hispanic. I know that many of these individuals turn to Hispanic media for news and other important information. As such, I am honored to be able to support a group that is important to so many people in my home State and in our great nation.

This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and states across the Nation to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in promptly passing this Resolution designating October 8 through October 14 as National Hispanic Media Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 15, 2006, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. TALENT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CRIAG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution, which was:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and